

**Objective:** Identify main idea and supporting details.

**CSE:** Can understand the main ideas in simple informational texts, if supported by pictures.

## Read It Right!

### Main Idea and Details

When you read a story, ask yourself: *What's the main idea?* The **main idea** is what the story is about. Sometimes the main idea is stated in the first or last sentence of a paragraph. Other times you have to figure it out.

The sentences in the story that give more information about the main idea are called supporting **details**. For example, if you find details about the same topic, they will probably lead you to the main idea of the text. Ask yourself: *What is this text mostly about?*

### Vocabulary

alive	guitar
celebrate	set
dish	visit

Do you know what these words mean? (Some sound like Spanish.) You can check the Glossary at the end of your book.

- 1 Read the story below. Discuss in pairs what the main idea and the supporting details are.

## THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR

"How exciting! It's November 1st!" says Lupita.

"We have been waiting so long for this day," adds Maria.

"You look really nice in that long dress! And the flowers on your head are so lovely," says Lupita.

"This is my favorite celebration. What about you? What are you going to wear?" Maria asks.

"Well, it's my first time visiting the other world. I will put on a white dress. I just hope my family will remember me," replies Lupita.

"I'm sure they will," says Maria. "You haven't been away that long. Me, on the other hand..."

Maria seems sad, but she doesn't want to spoil Lupita's good day. One of her favorite parts of today's celebration is eating the **dishes** she liked when she was still **alive**. Will there be tamales?



- 2 Circle the correct definition according to the text.
 

a	alive	not dead	animated
b	dish	plate	food prepared in a particular way
- 3 Check (✓) the sentence that expresses the main idea of the story.
 

Lupita likes the flowers on Maria's head.	<input type="radio"/>
Maria will eat <i>tamales</i> .	<input type="radio"/>
Both girls are excited about the upcoming celebration.	<input type="radio"/>
They both wear dresses.	<input type="radio"/>

- 4 Write two details that give more information about the main idea.

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### By Yourself

- 5 Read the article about the Day of the Dead. Do the following activities:

- a Circle the main idea.
- b Underline the supporting details.

## Day of the Dead

By Jose Diaz

On November 1st and 2nd we **celebrate** the Day of the Dead, or *Día de Muertos*. In Mexico it's a very important tradition. On the first day, the spirits of children come to **visit** us. On the second day, the spirits of adults return.

My family **sets up** a beautiful altar or *ofrenda*. We decorate it with photos of my grandparents and great-grandparents. I like to put candles and flowers on the altar. My mom cooks some special dishes. I like *pan de muerto*. They sell it in most bakeries near my house.

My family also goes to the cemetery. We clean and decorate the graves of our loved ones. My dad takes his **guitar** and we sing. My mom brings some food and we drink hot chocolate. Even my dog comes with us. He likes to sit with me and play with sticks.



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### Reader's Coach

You can identify the main idea from the title of the story and the illustrations around the text. What do they tell you about the main idea?

## Checking Comprehension

### 6 Answer the questions.

a Who is the author of this text? What is he describing?

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b List the places mentioned in the text.

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## Comprehension Skills Practice

### 7 Check (✓) the sentence that expresses the main idea of the...

a first paragraph.

Adults come on the second day.

On the first day, the spirits of children return.

The Day of the Dead is a special holiday celebrated in Mexico.

It happens on November 1st and 2nd.

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b second paragraph.

Families create beautiful altars, called *ofrendas*.

The altars have photos of dead people.

Most bakeries in Mexico sell *pan de muerto*.

There are candles and flowers on the altars.

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### 8 Use your own words to write the main idea of the article.

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#### Amazing Info

Mexican communities in the United States celebrate the Day of the Dead. Missoula, Montana has a parade with skeletal celebrants on stilts, while in Oakland, California, they have a festival with Aztec dancers, Mexican music, and crafts.

- 9 Work in pairs. Reread the third paragraph of the article on page 7 to complete the graphic organizer.

Main Idea

a

Supporting Details

b

Supporting Details

c

### Word Power

- 10 Complete the sentences using words from the box.

alive   dishes   set   guitar   celebrate   visit

- a My sister plays the piano, but not the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b Mom cooks chicken and potato \_\_\_\_\_ for the altar.
- c How do you \_\_\_\_\_ the Day of the Dead?
- d We went to \_\_\_\_\_ my aunt to help her with her *ofrenda*.
- e I will \_\_\_\_\_ up the table for the whole family.
- f Are the people we remember on the Day of the Dead \_\_\_\_\_?

### Connecting Ideas

Draw a poster showing the main idea of the first story "The Best Time of the Year." How do you imagine Lupita and Maria?

**Objective:** Form an opinion about a text.

**GSE:** Can understand information about someone's personal details in a simple paragraph or short text.

## Read It Right!

### Drawing Conclusions

When you read a story or an article, you use the information in the text plus the things you already know to make judgments. In other words, you find clues in the text. Then, you match these clues to the things you are familiar with and finally you **draw a conclusion**.

The clues in the text will help you form a new idea. Clues can be words, dates, or descriptions. A key question to ask is: *What do I already know about this topic?*

### Vocabulary

deaf	hockey
dentist	light
goal	team

Do you know what these words mean? You can check the Glossary at the end of your book.

- 1 Read the story below. Discuss in teams which conclusion can be drawn about who won the game.

## A Very Important Game

It's a tie and we have two minutes left. This is not the final, but our pass to the State Championship.

"Vera!" Terry yells my name, then she passes me the ball. It's so **light** it bounces between the legs of two defenders who try to hit it, but I'm much faster. Actually, they don't expect me in front of them.

There! I have the ball! I run and move my stick from one side to the other.

"Vera! Just shoot!" my teammates shout.



I look at the goalkeeper and swing as hard as I can. Suddenly, I taste blood. I guess I have just bitten my lip.

"Goal!" my parents roar from the stands. I'm surrounded by girls hugging me. I'm lifted up and cheered. I've scored! Ouch! My lip hurts!

2

- 2 Write T for true and F for false. If false, correct the statement.

a If you don't carry many books, your backpack is light. (T) \_\_\_\_\_

b In soccer you make baskets, in basketball you score goals. (F) \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Check (✓) the sport that the girls are playing.

soccer ☐

ice hockey ☐

floorball ☐

golf ☐



4 Complete the chart to answer the question.

Why did Vera bite her lips?		
Clues	What I Already Know	My Conclusion
When did she bite her lips? What does this tell us?	When you are nervous or concentrated, what do you do? (e.g., bite your nails)	I think Vera bit her lips because...

By Yourself

5 Read the article about Jim Kyte. Discuss why Jim is inspiring.

## An Inspiring Hockey Player

Jim Kyte grew in a family of five boys and one girl. His dad was deaf and never imagined his five sons would be **deaf**, too. However, he decided to raise them in normal schools. Jim didn't want to go to a special school for disabled kids, so he read his teachers' lips and got good grades.

He thought he was going to be a **dentist**, like his father. In high school, he was part of the hockey **team** and started dreaming. Could a deaf boy play in the NHL? Jim was a big man, so many teams would want him. But what about his problem?

He wore hearing aids and learned to guess his teammates' movements. He became a professional **hockey** player and the first deaf player in the League. He had many disadvantages, but he became an inspiration to many others who struggle with disabilities.



### Reader's Coach

When drawing a conclusion from a text, always make sure to support it using the clues you identified.

## Comprehension Check

### 6 Check (✓) the correct answers.

a What was Jim's problem?

Jim was deaf.

Jim had four brothers.

Jim wanted to be a dentist.

Jim wanted to play hockey.

b How did Jim overcome his problem?

Jim studied Medicine.

Jim became a professional hockey player.

Jim worked really hard.

Jim talked to his father.

## Amazing Info

In the Deaflympics deaf or hard of hearing athletes from all over the world get together to compete in their respective sports. To qualify for the games, athletes must have a hearing loss of at least 55 decibels.

## Comprehension Skills Practice

### 7 Circle what is not mentioned in the text.

Jim's sister is not deaf.

Jim has four deaf brothers.

### 8 Answer the question.

What does the description of Jim at school tell you about him?

### 9 Check (✓) the sentence that completes the phrase.

You can conclude from this article that...

there are now more disabled people in the NHL.

high school hockey is not important.

hockey is not a good sport for disabled people.

Jim and his family are all deaf.

- 10** Work in pairs. Think about the first story. What happened in the Final Game? Look at the picture and write down your conclusion.



### Word Power

- 11** Match the columns.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>a</b> deaf    | _____ a team sport                       |
| <b>b</b> goal    | _____ opposite of heavy                  |
| <b>c</b> dentist | _____ group of people that compete       |
| <b>d</b> team    | _____ not able to hear                   |
| <b>e</b> hockey  | _____ someone who repairs teeth          |
| <b>g</b> light   | _____ make a point in a game like soccer |

**Remember to always  
consider your personal  
experience when  
drawing conclusions!**

### Connecting Ideas

In your notebook, write a short story about a sport you like. Imagine you are in a very important game. What happens? Do you win or lose? Do you score the final point? How do you feel?